Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-88-208
Thursday
27 October 1988

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FBIS-LAT-88-208 *27 October 1988*

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Cuba

3 Enter FRG Envoy Residence, Request Asylum

PA2710030288 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2153 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Havana, 26 Oct (EFE)—EFE learned from diplomatic sources today that three Cubans have entered the residence of FRG Ambassador Ronald Zimmermann and are asking for help to leave country.

Two men and one woman on Monday climbed over the front gate of the house, which is located in Havana's Cubanacan neighborhood where most of the ambassadors' residences are located.

According to the sources, a guard detained a fourth person who was also trying to enter the house. Zimmermann is currently on vacation.

FRG Embassy sources refused to comment on the incident, neither confirming nor denying it. [passage omitted]

Castro Made Honorary President of Engineers Union

FL2710024888 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] Today, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, was unanimously elected honorary president of the 20th convention of UPADI [Panamerican Union of Engineer Associations]. The decision was made during the first general assembly of that organizations governing body.

This afternoon, the delegates at the meeting discussed problems related to the area's foreign debt.

How has the foreign debt affected construction in Latin America? We were reflecting on this question while we were listening to speeches by delegates at UPADI's 20th convention.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] There are several serious problems that had not presented themselves with the seriousness they now have. We, the UPADI engineers, have analyzed these problems and we believe that the solution we arrived at is very satisfactory.[end recording]

They also added that from 1980 to the present, investments in Latin America have decreased by 30 percent, this is to say by some $50 million. Of all the sectors in the economy, construction has suffered the most. What are the consequences? The great works of engineering in Latin America—industries, highways, bridges, public buildings, and extensive marginal neighborhoods—are far from being the symbol of technological advancement. They show the infinite poverty that is found as a result of the devastating reality that exists in Latin American countries. The foreign debt has influenced, in some aspects, the deterioration of some Latin American cities. Our conclusion certainly coincides with yours.

R. Castro Congratulates Construction Contingent

FL2610144588 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Army General Raul Castro has congratulated the members of the Blas Roca Calderio contingent in Havana for the excellent work they are carrying out. Raul's greetings were conveyed by Division General Sixto Batista Santana during a ceremony held to create a special engineering group in the construction contingent.

Rodriguez, OLADE Official Discuss Integration

FL2510143988 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers of Cuba, has received Gabriel Sanchez, executive secretary of the OLADE, in our capital. The OLADE secretary explained to the Cuban leader the subjects to be discussed at the next Mexico City conference. Special attention was paid to the contribution integration can make regarding energy problems and to the global economic integration of Latin America.

Carlos Zamora, Cuban ambassador to Ecuador, and Ramiro Leon, official of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, were also present during the meeting between Carlos Rafael and the OLADE executive secretary.

Foreign Trade Minister Attends Sugar Meeting

FL2610152588 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Ricardo Cabrisas, minister of foreign trade of Cuba, has noted that there has been a slight recovery of sugar prices caused by a certain balance between supply and demand. Cabrisas said this in San Jose, Costa Rica, where he is participating in the 24th meeting of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Sugar Exporting Countries [GEPLACEA]. He made a call to maintain unity of producer countries in the area because of the importance sugar has in their respective economies.

He also stated that sugar diversification is one of the activities in which GEPLACEA is focusing its studies and work the most. Cabrisas explained Cuba's experiences in this regard, experiences that, he said, are available to all Latin American and Caribbean countries.

Veiga Speaks at WFTU Meeting in India

FL2610165488 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1517 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Roberto Veiga, vice president of the WFTU and secretary general of the CTC [Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions], today gave an overview of the political and socioeconomic situation of Latin America and the Caribbean at the 41st general session of the world labor organization which is being held in New Delhi, India.

The Cuban union leader indicated how the growing and unbearable foreign debt, and attempts to pay the interest on it, caused the systematic worsening of the already deteriorated levels of the continent's nations. Speaking to almost 250 world delegates, the secretary general of our CTC said that payments of the debt are also evidence of subordination to the depredating policies of the IMF and the World Bank.

Roberto Veiga expressed at the WFTU meeting the concerns of Latin American workers.

ECLA Official on Cooperation With CEMA

FL2610153388 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Arsenio Aguirre, a high-level official of ECLA, has said in Havana that the perspectives for cooperation between ECLA and CEMA member countries are good. He added that Cuba will serve as a fundamental bridge for these types of relations in the region.

Medical-Scientific Delegation in Brazil

FL2610145288 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] A Cuban medical-scientific mission is in Brasilia to discuss the future transfer of Cuban technology for the production in Brazil of the meningitis type B vaccine. Brazil showed interest in the technology, and the Cuban mission will discuss the details with Health Minister Borges da Silveira.

Government Strategy on AIDS Discussed

FL2510203888 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 25 Oct 88

["Open Agenda" program on AIDS entitled "No To Promiscuity," with host Lucia Gonzalez and an unidentified narrator; all speakers identified by caption; place not given—live]

[Excerpts] [Narrator] AIDS is the name of the last phase of the Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome or HIV. It is a virus that invades and destroys the cells that protect the human body and causes a serious weakening of our natural defense system. Thus, the body becomes vulnerable to a great variety of infections and types of cancer, illnesses which cause death. This epidemic has no short-term medical solution. Furthermore, it is propagated not only by and through the human body, but also through ignorance, fear, and resistance to change. AIDS knows no geographical, social, racial, or cultural barriers. AIDS is a serious health problem in many countries. Cuba needs your participation to fight it.

[Gonzalez] AIDS was identified for the first time in the world in 1981. Since that time, the number of countries reporting AIDS cases has increased in amazing numbers. AIDS is a world epidemic today. It is a scourge of humanity that requires everyone's efforts in order to fight it. The seriousness of AIDS has been underestimated in many cases. For example, the visible signs of AIDS are merely that—visible signs. However, they are really part of a much greater infection, a hidden epidemic. To find out about the AIDS situation in Cuba, the world, means of transmission, its prevention, and many other aspects of great importance to the nation, "Open Agenda" tonight opens its pages. [Video shows following table on screen]:

AIDS Cases in Cuba as of 20 October 88

	Zero Positive	Deaths
Pinar del Rio	12	2
Havana	13	0
Havana City	83	5
Matanzas	10	0
Villa Clara	10	0
Cienfuegos	6	0
Sancti Spiritus	39	3
Ciego de Avila	2	0
Camaguey	14	0
Las Tunas	9	0
Holguin	9	0
Granma	18	0
Santiago de Cuba	21	1
Guantanamo	10	0
Isle of Youth	3	2
CUBA	259	13 [passage omitted]

[Gonzalez] "Open Agenda" has invited for this program a group of distinguished doctors, specialized in various fields, who are true authorities on health issues.

They will answer questions that have been prepared beforehand by the population for the Ministry of Public Health [Minsap]. And you, television viewers, will be able to ask whatever you want about AIDS by dialing the studio phone numbers specifically assigned for this program. I think that after this introduction, we can begin the program.

Before asking the first question, I would like to ask the whole panel to please be brief, although it is a bit difficult when discussing AIDS. I ask this so we can answer as many questions as possible, because the phones have been ringing even before the program began, and the questions that were prepared for the Minsap also need to be answered.

I think it is necessary to begin with an update of the AIDS situation in Cuba. In other words, how many carriers do we have, how many are ill, how many men, women, and children? I don't think we have yet the statistics for homosexuals, heterosexuals, and bisexuals. These are terms which I think have created some confusion among the population, (?when) not properly used. I would also like to ask how many people have been

screened in Cuba, and which provinces have the highest incidence rates. This question, naturally, is for Dr Hector Terry Molinet, vice minister of public health.

[Terry] Cuba's strategy for fighting the Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome is predicated on four basic principles. The first one is the massive detection of carriers through massive screenings of large population groups. This also includes screening blood donations. Second, the epidemiological study of each of the carriers detected so that we can quickly detect others who have been affected through sexual contacts with the carriers. Third, treatment in a regimented sanatorium to prevent the spread of the disease and to give better treatment to AIDS carriers. Finally, and a very important principle under which we are holding this program tonight, is to maintain the most detailed and periodic dissemination of information so that the population knows how to prevent and avoid contamination.

Keeping in mind all these basic elements and based on the massive screening program carried out by our ministry, we can say that from the time screening began in our country in February 1986 until 20 October 1988 we have conducted 2,956,144 tests, out of which 259 persons tested zero positive. This means a 0.008 positive percent rate for the nation. This figure includes 28 persons who are alive but who are ill and going through various phases of the disease. It also includes 11 persons who have died from AIDS. We could say that out of the 259 zero positive cases we have detected, including those who are ill, 188 are males, and 71 are women. It is also interesting to add that lately there has been a tendency whereby the figures for the female population are becoming even with the figures for the male population. Last year, we had an average of 4 men per 1 woman; currently the proportion is 2.6 men per 1 woman. This indicates to us that there is a certain relative tendency in the increase in females.

As for sexual behavior, we can say that out of this general category, 60 patients are homosexuals or bisexuals—which represents 32 percent—71 are women, and the rest are heterosexual men. If there has been any confusion on who is a bisexual or a heterosexual, we will clarify the terms. A bisexual is a person who has sexual relations with those of his own and the opposite sex. The homosexual is a person who has sexual relations with persons of his own sex. And the heterosexual is a person who has sexual relations with persons of the opposite sex.

We could also add that there are several elements that allow us to affirm that despite the world situation, which worsens day by day,—you have already seen the figures at the beginning of the program which show that as of 30 September the WHO had already reported 120,000 persons inflicted with AIDS out of which 35 to 40 percent had already died—our country, by maintaining a strategy based on the principles we outlined at the begining of the program, has shown a certain tendency toward lower positive AIDS test results, year by year. This is keeping in mind the control measures we have established.

For example, we can say that we tested 308,456 blood donors in 1986 and 14 people were contaminated with the AIDS virus. Nevertheless, when we tested 491,884 blood donors in 1987, we only had 5 people test positive for AIDS. In 1988, we tested 455,290 people and we found that only 2 people were infected with the virus.

This shows that the work done on blood donations, which poses a big problem throughout the world and is a great health danger, is extensively controlled in Cuba and our population has great confidence in our procedures.

Other groups are being studied. You have seen in the charts shown on the screen the incidence of AIDS per province. It is clear we cannot say that everyone was contaminated in the province itself. These figures are based on the location the patients came from but many of them were infected in another province. Many of them have had relations with foreigners in the country or abroad.

In addition to studying these groups, we have studied people admitted to our hospitals and the population in general and we can affirm that.... [changes thought] There are two or three provinces that have a higher rate of zero positive cases and they don't want to say that the problem is not under control. The provinces of Sancti Spiritus and Havana City have the highest incidence of zero positive cases per capita, 8 and 6 percent, respectively. I repeat, many times this does not mean that the infection was acquired in that territory. However, there is no doubt that in Havana City and Sancti Spiritus Provinces, the infection occurred in the territory itself. This takes into account that foreigners have been linked to the carriers, as our comrades will report later tonight.

I don't know if this answers your question.

[Gonzalez] No, that was fine. What kind of testing is being done now?

[Terry] Right now we continue to test blood as a fundamental measure.

Since September of last year, we have been testing women during their first 3 months of pregnancy. We can say, for example, that last year, we tested 79,063 women and we detected 3 people who were zero positive. As of today, we have tested 165,458 women and detected 3 women who tested positive. The positive results in this group remains the same. It is very low, 0.0038 percent.

We are also testing the patients that enter all the clinical-surgical and gynecology-obstetrics hospitals throughout the nation. This work began last year in September and we sampled 99,348 people. We found 3 people to be zero positive. This year we tested 429,939 people and 10 were found to be zero positive. The incidence of zero positive results remains the same in this group, 0.002-0.003 percent.

Another very important measure we have taken is massive testing of some populations. For example, we tested the people of Varadero, Habana Vieja municipality, Cabaiguan municipality, and areas of Guantanamo Province, and we are finishing testing in the Isle of Youth. Zero positive results in the population in general are also very low, 0.0019 percent.

This tells us that the control measures and the strategy used to begin the program in Cuba has produced very good results. If, for example, what has been reported in world literature were to be applied to us, for each person with AIDS, there would be 60 to 100 asymptomatic people who are carrying the virus and may be transmitting the disease.

By using the control measures we have established, there is an average of 5.9 contacts per AIDS patient, which tells us that we have prevented a considerable number of zero positive cases and protected a considerable number of people who later could become ill.

If we had followed procedures established in other countries which differ from our strategy, we would probably now have 1,000 people who were zero positive and by the year 1993, we would have about 300 people who have AIDS.

[Gonzalez] Excuse me doctor, the figure of 300 takes into consideration the international standards?

[Terry] The international standards....

[Gonzalez, interrupting] Based on Cuba's strategy, what is Cuba's prognosis for AIDS carriers and infected people?

[Terry] We issued a document that was published by GRANMA a few months ago in which we stated that based on the country's strategy, we expect to have a small figure, a minimal figure, of 76 people, an average of 109, and a maximum of 183 who will test zero positive. We always use the average figure in our calculations.

We have only detected 85 zero positive cases so far this year. Everything seems to indicate that the prognosis is on track. We'll have less than 109 cases of zero positive.

As I was saying, the testing continues to increase. We have a very high level of control in the entire strategy of the program.

What possibilities do we have and what strategies will we develop for next year? We plan to conduct 4 million diagnostic tests next year. This year we will conduct approximately 1.6 million or 1.7 million tests, which is double the number of tests conducted in 1987. We plan to increase the tests in certain groups, certain open areas of the population to fulfill the goal of 4 million in 1989. [passage omitted]

[Gonzalez] We have been asked often what measures are being taken to prevent the spread of AIDS by Cuban and foreign personnel, students, and tourists who travel abroad. This is a concern since we all recognize the importance of developing tourism in Cuba. What is being done about the people that travel?

[Terry] Ever since the blood donations program began, Lucia, everyone who lives in a high-risk area outside of Cuba for about a year is tested. This policy has been maintained in the strategy of massive testing. Testing also has increased among other groups, such as students returning to the country, diplomatic personnel, everyone who has been abroad for a prolonged period of time. They go through the epidemiology units and they are tested; they give samples.

We now no longer pay as much attention as other countries to the characteristics of a risk group. We work very openly, with large groups of the population. More measures are taken each day. Testing needs to be controlled. We are openly working harder on the population in the municipalities instead of concentrating on certain groups. As you can see, we've increased our tests through the hospitals. We test patients who are in their first trimester of pregnancy. Inmates are also included among the groups of people we study. We study the personnel who frequently go abroad, as well as those whose work brings them into contact with tourists. Much work is done on providing information, which we believe is one of the most important measures.

As far as tourism is concerned, our strategy is to maintain the criteria that we have established in previous programs. Tourism is a valuable resource for our country and we should give tourists the greatest attention and hospitality. However, as was indicated before the program began, gratuitous and occasional sexual contact must be avoided. There is no reason to seek out that contact which could place us in danger.

Taking into consideration the high rates and percentages of zero positive cases that exist in every country, the United States has become the primary vector of AIDS throughout the world. West European, Latin American, and other countries also have high percentages of zero positive cases. This presents a very difficult situation with regard to the rest of the world. It cannot be solved for a number of years and the conduct of each citizen toward tourists is a fundamental factor.

If someone makes a decision during a tourist convention—as you know, international tourism firms hold meetings—if an agreement is reached in reference to this problem and to tourism, our country would more or less comply with that strategy. However, as of now, we will maintain our own strategy in reference to this problem.

[Gonzalez] Then tourists are not tested and will not be tested.

[Terry] No, not at the moment.

[Gonzalez] No one should feel safe in having gratuitous contacts with tourists. This is the moral of the story. [passage omitted]

[Gonzalez] I will now address this question to Dr Terry. Doctor, although you said that the screening figures were rather consistent and that they had not risen considerably, it is understood that as screening continues more carriers will be detected, and as time goes by some of these carriers will become sick. We know that the comrades admitted to the sanatorium are paid their full salary. Furthermore, those who did not work when they were admitted were paid a stipend of 110 pesos, is that so?

[Terry] Yes.

[Gonzalez] I wonder, then, if the number of carriers and those who become sick increases, how will the country handle this? Another question related to this is how they will be paid their salary, and be cared for. Further, if this salary is paid by the work centers, and those comrades are included on the payroll but do not work, can that job position be filled?

[Terry] Well, to date we have used those measures. As you can see, the incidence rate is low. We must also say that all these types of measures which were analyzed by our government also correspond to the ignorance (?level) which the population initially had. Without a doubt, many comrades have paid the (?price) for their ignorance of the situation as concerns the illness worldwide, and for having gratuitous relations with foreigners. All these elements have been kept in mind with the current measures of social security that have been used to date. For now, we have not considered any change in policy related to this aspect. However, experience will guide us in this. As I was telling you, the national commission meets periodically. Thus, we will periodically analyze the situation. At the beginning of the program, we saw that today the population, even youths, have some knowledge and concerns that we did not see in them 2 years ago. I think this is an important step. We must also continue to strengthen information dissemination in this area. Therefore, as we learn more from each case and situation, we will have better guidance as to what social security measures to take. I think your question is a very important one, because I think our country can say it has social security measures for this illness that other countries do not have. Furthermore, we have often seen the problems that exist, even in the United States, in developed countries. We have seen the massive demonstrations of sick persons, patients, carriers of the virus who seek government funding for research, treatment, and education campaigns. However, with the current economic and international situation, there are countries that cannot even fund the medical treatment for the ill persons, much less consider social security measures. This is also one of the problems that has concerned mankind and countries with higher standards of living. In the United States, for example, a few months ago Senator Kennedy presented a study to Congress which showed that AIDS would cost the government $64 billion [figure as heard] by 1991. This not only includes medical assistance, the problems of the disease, the medicine, but also social security and production. There will be a substantial reduction in man's productivity, as a result of the effects of the disease on the human body. On 13 October, THE NEW YORK TIMES made reference to a set of measures being taken by the State of New York. This is in keeping with the expectation that by 1991, at the rate they are going, one out of two hospital beds will be for an AIDS patient. Can you imagine what a serious problem this is!

[Gonzalez] This is a real health problem.

[Terry] Yes, a real health problem. There is an enormous number of patients, making it necessary to use 50 percent of the beds for this type of treatment. Already, the set of measures proposed by the state commission of New York City to the government includes very interesting things similar to Cuba's plans. The measures propose the establishment for sanitariums for the care of patients. Since they have a large number of carriers, it also proposes establishing specific districts to better care for the patients and the carriers, the zero positive persons. It includes nutrition and food supplement programs, as well as supplemental funds to pay social security to persons who suffer from the disease.

In other words, they are getting closer to a strategy. I think they are in very difficult position because they are acting very late. However, they are beginning to propose strategies very similar to the ones which have been followed by our country.

[Gonzalez] Well, we have already been on this program for 1 hour, and there are still many questions to answer and the phones continue ringing. I would like to discuss a subject on which I ask you to be brief. This a subject that people have asked a lot of questions about—the Santiago de Las Vegas sanatorium. I think the first thing we want to know is the kind of life that an AIDS carrier leads in the sanatorium.

[Dr Manuel Hernandez Liens] Well, at the Santiago de Las Vegas sanatorium we admit all Cuban citizens who are HIV carriers; this includes carriers without symptoms or carriers who are in a type 4 state. This does not include those patients who, because of their state of health, have some kind of relapse and are cared for afterward at the Institute for Tropical Medicine. Dr Jorge Perez will expand on that later. When the patients are admitted, they are immediately given a detailed report on the activities of the sanatorium. Next, they go through a clinical evaluation, a psychological evaluation, and initial complementary exams. Subsequently, they are put under the various treatments or therapy provided

by the sanatorium, along with the pharmacological treatment we have, such as leucocytic interferon, alfa 2 [word indistinct], or sonotherapy, which we have used at times, or other types of medicine.

Sometimes we hear stories about the patients in the sanitarium. For example, on this program we have had questions concerning how the patients are being kept. There are some ridiculous stories. They ask if the patients are being kept in a [word indistinct], in a basement, or behind bars. However, those who have visited our sanatorium—relatives on visiting days, and other national and foreign scientists—have been able to verify the satisfactory state of our patients, even those who have been there 2 years or more.

[Gonzalez] While you were speaking, doctor, for the first time we saw pictures of the Santiago de Las Vegas sanatorium. We saw truly beautiful pictures, a pleasant place. We saw some comrade health workers, but we didn't see any patients. Why is this so? Is this a policy of the Minsap? Or is it because the patients refuse to come out and be interviewed? Is AIDS considered a moral problem and not a disease that any one of us can contract?

[Hernandez] We have already explained here that this is a very new disease in the world. The first cases arose just 7 or 8 years ago. With regard to experience with sanatoriums, we have done this also for a very short time. Nevertheless, because of the ethical problem, the policy of our Minsap has always been to withhold the identity of the patient.

[Gonzalez] To protect them?

[Hernandez] In a sense, yes, to protect them and not divulge their identity. Of course, as long as they agree to it. But for ethical reasons, we do not show pictures or their names at any time.

[Gonzalez] Does the sanatorium's pass system for carriers guarantee non-contamination by the disease?

[Hernandez] Well, we repeat that initially this was an unknown illness, a new and dangerous illness, even fatal to a certain extent. Initially, isolation was practically absolute, for the reasons I have just given. Subsequently, as we learned more about the disease, especially about the means of transmission, we increased the possibilities for home and family visits.

We have established a pass system for Havana patients who go out every Sunday and for patients from the interior who, because of distance, are given a 4-day pass every 45 days. This pass does not include transportation to their province. The patient is accompanied by a health worker, a technician or a professional that is trained in the responsibilities of caring for this person during his leave. These measures are an attempt to prevent, at any cost, the patient from having sexual relations with his partner or from having an occasional contact among the population. The pass system for the sanitarium patients is in force under these conditions.

[Gonzalez] Doctor, we know that there are more than 20 or 25 married couples in the sanitarium. You were telling us the other day during a work meeting prior to this program that almost 50 percent of them had gotten married during their stay in the sanitarium. Could one of these married couples carry out a type of—I understand that they, the couples, go out alone, without anyone accompanying them....

[Hernandez, interrupting] I wouldn't say they go out alone. They go out accompanying each other.

[Gonzalez] Yes, but...,

[Hernandez, interrupting] This is precisely one of the requirements. The couple may go out but they must be in each other's company at all times.

[Gonzalez] Is there any assurance that the marriage is based on love and that it is not a marriage of convenience? It would be a convenient arrangement in the sense that they could go out alone and once they are away, she'll go her way and he'll go his. This is a question the people ask themselves.

[Hernandez] No, when we detect a case like this, we take the appropriate measure and they are assigned a companion when they go out on pass. [passage omitted]

[Terry] I think what Dr Hernandez has said is clear. I think you asked at the beginning, Lucia, about the results of the sanitarium's work.

I mentioned earlier the projected number of AIDS cases we could have reached. I think I made an error when I said we could have 300 people with AIDS by 1993. It's not 300; it's approximately 600. We would have had about 600 AIDS patients by the year 1993 if we had not followed these procedures. I also think that Dr Hernandez, who has a lot of experience heading this institution, could give us an idea, more or less, of the physical status of the carriers of the disease in the sanitarium.

[Gonzalez] Yes, I would like to ask about their lifestyle. Do they participate in sports? Do they watch TV? How do they entertain themselves?

[Hernandez] Yes, life in the institution is very full in the sense that they have opportunities to work. They can participate in sports. Some of them are members of a musical group which was recently created. We are creating certain conditions.

Courses were recently approved for patients who interrupted their university studies. We are coordinating this with the Ministry of Higher Education so that many of them can take free tests and get their degrees. They participate in sports. They have opportunities to work.

All this is optional. The patient is not required at any time to work, study, or do anything else.

With reference to the psychological state of these patients, a psychological evaluation is being conducted by a very-well trained team of psychologists. Evaluations were recently made on about 30 percent of the entire patient population. We will have in hand a technical evaluation with which we can determine the psychological support these patients require. Besides receiving psychological care, they receive assistance from the medical team, which participates in all work and in research.

[Gonzalez] We have two questions here that are related. Is the Cuban sanitarium a unique institution? Isn't isolating the AIDS carriers in the sanitarium a violation of the needs and social interests of those people if this isolation is approved by law? If this law does not exist, are there plans to draft such a law?

[Hernandez] With reference to the sanitarium experience, we think it is unique, even in the scientific area. We have results that were recently reported at the second scientific meeting of our institution and at the second psychological workshop where we presented a number of experiences acquired at the sanitarium. Internationally, we are very pleased with our statistics because they are low. Out of approximately 200 people who are AIDS carriers or who have the disease, (?there is no) clinical or psychological case that is too big.

In this sense, the treatment of these patients is also in addition to permanent medical care that allows the early detection of AIDS. For instance, we recently detected two cases of [word indistinct] that were treated with recombinant interferon, which is known to be a substance that is highly effective in the treatment of these cases. It is recognized internationally. The patients were cured. Other types of infections seen in these patients were also treated. We think this is an advantage for the patients so that they can prevent the early development of AIDS. [passage omitted does not include a response to Gonzalez' question on possible legal enforcement of isolation for AIDS carriers]

[Gonzalez] I have a few questions here for Dr Terry. Do you think that there is a willingness in Cuban society to fight and prevent AIDS? Go ahead; go ahead. [Gonzalez speaks to woman handing her questions that have been called into the program]

[Terry] I think we have a political willingness in our country and I think it has existed for a long time.

[Gonzalez] That is clear, doctor, but I'm speaking about social willingness.

[Terry] I think that social willingness also has to be supported with a recognition of the cause so that the problem is well known. Sometimes we are uncomfortable when we see a program such as this. We cite such low figures that it can have negative repercussions.

We sometimes speak with some comrades from the press and they say [words indistinct]. We have to prevent the problem. We cannot wait until we have hundreds of thousands of cases to confront the problem. Everything we do is to prevent AIDS from becoming a health problem in our country. We still have much work to do. We have much to report on.

AIDS consumes a large part of the public health budget. Between the material that we have to buy to do the testing—which we are now manufacturing in the country—the medications, the allotment designated to the sanitarium for activities such as those mentioned by Dr Hernandez Lien, we are practically spending $2 million a year of freely convertible currency to comply with the fundamental strategy for AIDS.

For example, we are disseminating a lot of information outside the country among Cuban collaborators, students studying in foreign countries. We are sending specialists to these countries. They hold discussions, give conferences, show videos. This type of activity is being undertaken in all countries with which we have cooperation. It is being undertaken in the DPRK. We will also begin programs in October in the USSR, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, wherever we have large contingents of students working. This includes Africa, where we have civil and military cooperation.

All this describes the willingness of society to confront the problem that you mentioned. Besides everything else that can be done by the state, besides all the measures we can take, the most elemental measure is individual protection. The individual has to avoid sexual situations, which is the primary area we have to work on in order to prevent the spread of the problem.

We can see by the questions we receive that people are looking for details on how the disease is transmitted. I think that the primary method of transmitting AIDS is through sexual relations. That has to be made very clear. It has to be made very clear. Other factors are very circumstantial, very small details. The primary problem is related to sexual contact and the stability of a couple in terms of their relationship. [passage omitted]

[Gonzalez] Dr Terry, I would like to ask you what you think causes the mass media to do a poor job in disseminating information on this disease. Are we responsible for this?

[Terry] Well, I'm not going to get into a fight with the press because I won't be allowed in here anymore.

[Gonzalez] No, we can take criticism.

[Terry] I'm just joking. I think we have to say, and this is job related, that when we do not publish something, it is because we no longer consider it news. We must continue reporting. This is the problem with reporting. Why? For our part, we are willing to distribute all the information we can give to larger entities, but we do require the help of the media.

Not long ago, we asked the Institute of Internal Demand to conduct a survey for a more aggressive AIDS campaign project. The survey was an interesting experience and we were able to see gaps in the information available on the problem. However, most of the people polled said that television had been the best and most effective source of information to learn about the characteristics and ways of preventing AIDS. It is necessary to discuss this every day, not just have a television program once every few months. We cannot do a program like this every day. However, we must use everything at our disposal.

We must also strengthen the ministries' internal work with mass organizations. This is something that we still need to work on. For example, in the next few days we plan to invite the state central administration organs and mass organizations to an activity that we are planning for 1 December, which has been designated by the WHO as world day of information on AIDS. We will take the opportunity on this day, using all the resources available from the health system—the family doctors and medical and nursing students everywhere—to convey a message on AIDS. We cannot stop here. We must prevent the dissemination of information from becoming routine and we must call attention to a problem which, up to the moment, is under control in the country. However, the people's individual conduct will be what determines whether the country retains that control. [passage omitted]

[Gonzalez] Some of our callers have spoken about patients who have escaped from the sanitarium. What happens to that patient? Have there been such cases of patients and carriers escaping?

[Hernandez] First of all, the sanitarium is a health institute. It is not a prison. We saw pictures of it earlier. People occasionally escape from the most secure prisons. The sanitarium is not exempt from the possibility that a patient, a carrier, could violate the disciplinary measures.

As was mentioned earlier, once the patient is admitted, he is briefed extensively on the operations of the sanitarium. This is one of the measures that is insisted upon. They are told they can only go out with their companion when they have a pass or if they have a social problem or if the patient has some other type of need.

[Gonzalez] Do you punish the patients that escape?

[Hernandez] We call attention to this problem; we meet with him, etc.

[Gonzalez] You hold talks with him, then. I earlier mentioned the medical students and we have received calls from people asking why medical students cannot accompany AIDS carriers.

[Terry] The problem is not that they are medical students. What we're trying to do is stabilize a work force for this task. We would have to make many changes because students have exams, etc, and this work truly requires dedication and we want them to gain experience. We felt that it would be more useful to stabilize a permanent work force that will allow us to give the patients better attention. There is no other reason than this. [passage omitted]

[Gonzalez] We've been on the air for 1 hour and 42 minutes and there are still many questions to ask. The phones continue ringing but we cannot continue the program. I think we have tried to answer the majority of questions, the most important ones. It's not that some questions are not important; it's just that we can't extend the program any longer. I think that the most important things have been said. Do we know how many calls we've received? [indistinct response from women answering phones] We've received 100 calls.

[Terry] Prior to the program we received 132 calls.

[Gonzalez] Yes, we've had almost 300 calls on the phone lines of the Public Health Ministry and the ICRT [Cuban Institute of Radio and Television]. It's impossible to answer them all. All we can do now is thank the women comrades from the ICRT and the Public Health Ministry. They have been very kind in answering the phones without question. We would also like to thank our guests.

We'll say goodby until the next "Open Agenda" program.

Group Sentenced Over Public Disturbances

FL2610194788 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0032 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] This afternoon the Centro Habana Municipal Tribunal sentenced a group of citizens who, along with some other people, created a public disturbance on Sunday evening, 23 October, at Neptuno Street in the capital.

Those involved hit passing buses and crawled through their doors and windows—and even on top of them—creating a ruckus and stopping traffic at the Neptuno bus stop between Espada and San Francisco Streets. Due to this and other indisciplined acts on the streets, the National Revolutionary Police, mainly members of its special brigade, detained 36 citizens on the spot, 9 of whom were taken to the municipal tribunal; the remainder, mostly adolescents, were fined for misdemeanors.

Taking into account their social behavior, previous criminal records, and the crime they committed, 20-year-old Osvaldo Diego Vazquez was sentenced to 9 months imprisonment; Angel Rolando Balmaceda and Osmani Lendes Arzola, 17 and 18 years old, respectively, were sentenced to 4 months imprisonment. All of them live in Plaza Municipality, as does William Tellez Brioso, an 18-year-old sentenced to 3 months imprisonment. Diony Correa Nursa, 16, and Carlos Alberto Noa, 18, both from Marianao, must pay fines of 150 and 70 pesos, respectively. Another involved in the Neptuno Street disturbance is 16-year-old Domingo Fernandez Rodriguez, who lives in Buenavista. He was fined 50 pesos.

The Centro Habana Municipal Tribunal decided to dismiss 17-year-old Juan Gonzalez Pera, a resident of Playa, and 19-year-old Francisco Javier Borges Becerra, from Centro Habana.

Those sentenced have the right to appeal at the Havana Provincial Tribunal.

Illegal Disciplinary Measures on Workers Viewed

FL2610185588 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] It could be thought that it is enough to be an administrative director to have the authority to apply such or such disciplinary measure. We have heard about this view many times but it is far from the truth. Sanctions are enforceable, of course, but only when they are absolutely justified. Otherwise, they are considered a crime.

Criminal offenses regarding labor rights continue to exist in our socialist state and have not been eliminated from the Penal Code. Article 27, for example, states it very clearly: He who without being legitimately authorized or being authorized imposes illegal disciplinary measures on workers could be sanctioned to loss of freedom from 3 months to 1 year or a fine of 100 to 300 quotas. The same article indicates that when the illegal measure is imposed because of enmity, vengeance, or other malicious act the sentence of loss of freedom is from 6 months to 2 years or a fine of 200 to 500 quotas.

So, if anyone is doing this, he should remove from his consciousness the idea of not speaking up because of fear of getting burned. Such behavior shows a poor attitude of pretending to not see wrongful acts and lack of moral concern. No worker can allow that a just and adequate criticism be silenced because of the possibility of being subjected to more or less subtle retaliation.

If the situation presents itself, the challenge must be accepted. It is a matter of dignity and principles.

Santa Clara Factory Halts Production

FL2210191088 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Text] The crossbeam and elastic fixings factory of Santa Clara, which has to date produced more than 145,000 of these units, has stopped producing for reasons beyond the control of the workers of this important industry.

The fundamental reason is that the Karl Marx factory of Cienfuegos has not fulfilled its requirements. The factory has not delivered more than 3,500 tons of P350 cement needed for the production of crossbeams destined for national use, as well as export.

Another factor is the bad quality of wire supplied for casting of lines, and the loss of some 3,000 work hours due to breakdowns in machinery, electricity, and other elements that affect the production process.

If it were not for these difficulties, the production of crossbeams, as of the time of this broadcast, would be overfulfilled by more than 44 units, despite the technical problems encountered in this industry due to insufficient spare parts, replacement of equipment, and imported components.

Haiti

Reaction to Avril 21 Oct Policy Statement

FL2610155988 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Excerpts] A lot of people's expectations were satisfied Friday evening when General Prosper Avril made his general policy statement from the National Palace after a month's management of public affairs. [passage omitted]

Reaction to Gen Avril's statement of general policy were not long in coming.

Mr Gerard Gourgue [National Concerted Action Front presidential candidate for the November 1987 elections] told AFP that the message was brief, clear, precise, and concise.

Marc Bazin [leader of the Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti] found the message positive, overall. Bazin feels that political parties must contribute to helping the electoral process progress in a democratic way.

Rene Theodore [secretary general of the United Party of Haitian Communists] said the nation was expecting much more than that—that the country was expecting a program attesting to the fact that the people's demands have been understood the way the Haitian people themselves understand them to be set forth.

Nicolas Estiverne, who was expelled from Haiti by Namphy and who had recently formed a government in exile, expressed his support for the Avril government. He

said that this decision automatically means the dissolution of his government in exile. Nevertheless, he said that letters have been addressed to Avril but that these letters have never been answered. Estiverne denied the claims that he is an American citizen—precisely why he was expelled. To those who might still believe this, he says that he is not. And he will be back in Haiti soon.

[Begin Estiverne recording] [Passage omitted] In my opinion, up to the present I still think that in order for Mr Avril to prove his total good faith—despite the fact that what he is doing is a step in the right direction—he should appoint the chairman of the Court of Cassation provisional president of Haiti. If Gen Avril were to do this, not only would he gain the trust of many people in Haiti, but the international community as well would see him in an even more positive manner. [passage omitted] [end recording] [passage omitted]

Gen Avril's violence must be brought to an end. The MDN [Mobilization for National Development] wonders about the means and paths to reach peace, since the general gave no precise details on the efforts his government may be making in regard to social policy, justice, and administrative transparency. Nor did he make any allusion to the 19-point memorandum submitted by the enlisted men following the 17 September coup. He also remained silent in regard to the social unrest that has been shaking the country for the past 2 weeks and on the failed coup d'etat of 15 October 1988. [passage omitted]

The MDN is wondering what mechanism the general is going to use to recruit the wise men [who are to head a new electoral council]. [passage omitted]

The MDN wonders what happened to the consensus reached as to the need to amend the Constitution of 1987. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording of MDN leader Hubert de Ronceray] The MDN, which had so dearly wished for this statement of general policy, nevertheless finds it incomplete. Gen Avril set forth four major topics for reflection. However, it is not possible to delineate any convincing conclusion from these topics. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Group Calls for Anti-Avril Demonstration

FL2610130588 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Excerpts] Lina McNally's Liaison Committee for the Democratic Forces [Comite de Liaison des Forces Democratiques, CLFD, as opposed to Daniel Narcisse's Liaison Committee for the Democratic Forces, also known simply as Liaison for the Democratic Forces, Liaison des Forces Democratiques, LFD] is organizing a demonstration today against General Prosper Avril's government.

The CLDF called for a demonstration this morning to oblige the Avril government to turn power back over to a civilian as well as to the patriotic members of the Armed Forces so that they can continue the movement that began on 17 September.

The CLFD announced this decision during a press conference Saturday at CATH [Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers] headquarters in reaction to the general's message to the population from the National Palace on Friday.

Contrary to a few other organizations, the CLFD said it does not at all trust Gen Avril—whose attitude upon speaking of the military government is that of someone consolidating his power, just like General Namphy. Also, the CLFD said that Avril did not discuss the matter of the coup attempt at all in his message.

The CLFD announced a demonstration against Gen Avril because—according to it—he betrayed the 17 September movement by arresting the patriotic soldiers, betrayed the country by not wanting to apply the Constitution, and betrayed the people by stopping the cleanup movement. Therefore, the CLFD thinks the general constitutes a danger to the nation; and that is why they are going to ask during this demonstration that he leave power and go away. [passage omitted]

Regarding the elections announced by the general, the CLFD said that no elections are possible until there has been a good cleanup of macoutes in Haiti. According to the CLFD, Gen Avril is organizing himself in order to put his own man into power, just as Gen Namphy had intended to do.

Police Disperse Protest

FL2610132288 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Excerpts] At around noon yesterday, several political organizations—such as the Christian Democratic Assembly, RDC; the rural womens' league; and the AJEPOPO, Association of Youth of the Masses of Port-au-Prince [Asosyasyon Jen Popile Potoprens]—assembled in front of St Jean Bosco Church at the call of the Liaison Committee for the Democratic Forces to demonstrate in support of Father Jean Bertrand Aristide. Another reason for the demonstration was to demand that the new military government headed by Lieutenant General Prosper Avril leave power.

We learned that this demonstration was later dispersed with billy clubs and tear gas in front of the Capitol movie theater. Our reporter Michel Lubin was there and will give us more details.

[Lubin] [Passage omitted] The demonstrators, who were chanting slogans hostile to the military government, were dispersed in front of the Capitol movie theater by armed soldiers who had been monitoring the demonstration all along the way—and that is how this demonstration ended.

Soldiers Arrested; Provincial Demonstrations

FL2610165188 Port-au-Prince LE NOUVELLISTE in French No 33.377 25 Oct 88 pp 1, 2

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Radio Lumiere this morning reported that several Fort Dimanche soldiers have been arrested at the orders of Major Isidor Pongnon.

These soldiers have reportedly been imprisoned at the National Penitentiary.

The informant did not give the soldiers' names, nor did he reveal the reasons for the arrest. [passage omitted]

Street demonstrations have been organized in certain provincial towns: Jacmel, Jeremie, Hinche, and L'Estere. All these demonstrations have been for the same reasons: to express solidarity with the patriotic soldiers of the 17 September movement; to protest a departure by Father Aristide; to support reform and the weeding out of macoutes in the public administration; and to demand that former macoutes and detectives be disarmed. [passage omitted]

Press Group Asks To Meet Political Prisoners

FL2610142888 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] The Haitian Press Federation has stated: In view of all the confusion over the alleged coup d'etat of Friday, 14 October, and the (?many conflicting) reports circulating regarding the people who were allegedly going to carry out this coup, the Haitian Press Federation's national secretariat asks that Information Minister Virginie Saint-Pierre authorize National Penitentiary authorities to receive the national press. It also asks that Interior Minister Colonel Carl Dorsainville and Army Chief of Staff Major General Herard Abraham authorize journalists to interview General Prosper Avril's political prisoners—especially the imprisoned enlisted men, and particularly Sergeant Frantz Patrick Beauchard, who had the courage to attack, with the other patriotic soldiers, the bunker [preceding word in English] located at Delmas 19 and the residence of former [as heard] Major General Williams Regala.

The Federation's national secretariat is counting on the information minister's goodwill so that the Haitian people will at least be able to find out what really happened, based on the statements of the alleged guilty parties, and so that public opinion can draw its own conclusions as to what is or is not true regarding what the soldiers have been accused of. The official version of the story has been given by the Prosper Avril government; and the soldiers could thus give their version of the story.

In conclusion, the Federation stated: In the name of the right to communication and the duty to inform, our organization's press workers would like to see this request granted within 48 hours by Mr Virginie Saint-Pierre, who has a responsibility to the nation to hold a press conference on this matter.

Radio Soleil on Violence, 'Climate of Insecurity'

FL2610162888 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Excerpts] The Haitian people are crying out for justice, for a cleanup, all over Haiti. Meanwhile, there are armed thieves circulating and causing trouble. This is done at night, and it is always people who are armed—who, it seems, have not been disarmed—who sow terror in Port-au-Prince.

On the night of 23 October, teams of armed thieves broke into houses in two neighborhoods. They threatened to shoot the inhabitants and also beat them.

On the extension to Rue Tiremasse, an armed six-man team of thieves wearing shorts broke into two family homes and stole money and other things.

That same night, another team of three men—one in civilian clothing and two in olive-green uniforms—broke down the door to a family home. They declared that the engineering corps had sent them to search for weapons. They searched the house and turned it inside out, carting off everything they could. [passage omitted]

Also, two individuals, one in olive green and the other in civilian clothing, broke into a house near the (Nirvana) marketplace near Second Avenue at around 0100 on 22 October. They arrested two men and two women. They took these people to the Bicentennaire, in front of the National Theater, in the vicinity of Radio Plus' antenna. They shot one of the men dead and wounded the other one, who is at present in the hospital.

According to people who were (?present) during the incident, the man killed was a shoe repairman [koleboyo] nicknamed Kole; the man wounded is (Dorvilien Mery). He [not further identified] is a member of an association called the Malanga Youth Organization [Asosyasyon Jen Malanga] and he was just passing through Port-au-Prince.

The two women arrested with these two men were released on the Bicentennaire before the men were shot.

According to the witnesses, the murderers said they were looking for someone, but they never gave the person's name. The people they arrested were poor people from the provinces who had been allowed to sleep there for the night.

Is it members of the Army doing these things? The authorities always say no. But if not they, then who? Detectives? Tonton macoutes? But have the detectives and macoutes been disarmed? No, they have not been disarmed, because the Port-au-Prince police ordered the movement to disarm people stopped. [passage omitted]

Radio Soleil's night watchman [who was attacked by armed individuals at Radio Soleil on the night of 22 October] made his statements to the Investigations and Anti-Gang Service Sunday morning. We are wondering about the matter of the people's right to carry weapons and about the order put out by the authorities to stop the disarming. Meanwhile, the climate of insecurity persists.

Just last week, the police put out a press release announcing that they were going to resume giving out weapons. This is going to add to the weapons that are already out there—in the hands of people who do not have a right to carry a weapon—and (?there is going to be a horrendous mess). So this is a very important question: Is this the right time for this business of giving weapons, since there are many criminal acts such as armed thefts and murders going on?

Jamaica

Health Officials Fear Dengue Fever Outbreak

FL2610225888 Bridgetown CANA in English
2205 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Oct 26, CANA—Jamaican health officials are fearing an outbreak of dengue fever as a result of a rise in mosquito vector after Hurrican Gilbert which lashed the island last month, the GLEANER newspaper reported Wednesday. "At anytime we can have an outbreak of dengue," the GLEANER quoted Health Minister Ken Baugh as saying. "After a flood like this (associated with Gilbert), the mosquitoes will start breeding again."

Dengue is spread by the Aedes Egypti mosquito and there were outbreaks of the fever here in 1981 and 1983. But Baugh said there had been a fall off in cases in recent years. "The Aedes Egypti is still common in Jamaica, although we have actually reduced the population," the minister said. "But it is still at a dangerous level."

Baugh urged people to take precautions against mosquito breeding.

Although a clean-up has been underway in the more than a month since the hurricane, many streets in the capital remain littered with branches and the trunks of fallen trees as well as receptacles in which mosquitoes can breed.

Baugh said that his ministry was trying to control the larvae with a fogging and spraying programme and other means.

St Lucia

Protest of Bill Dissolving Banana Board

FL2610155788 Bridgetown CANA in English
1530 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, Oct 26, CANA—Angry crowds threw stones and bottles outside the Parliament building here Tuesday night, shortly after the house approved a controversial new bill dissolving the board of the St Lucia Banana Growers' Association (SLBGA), allegedly because of mismanagement.

When the meeting ended, Prime Minister John Compton, Agriculture Minister Ferdinand Henry, and Junior Agriculture Minister Gregory Avril were whisked away under heavy police guard as the missiles flew.

News of the introduction of what the opposition described as a "repressive piece of legislation" drew a large crowd outside Parliament, where the opposition St Lucia Labour Party (SLP), using a mobile unit, addressed the crowd. The bill, which was passed after close to 9 hours of debate, calls for the immediate dissolution of the board of directors of the privately-run St Lucia Banana Growers' Association. Under the new law, the November 5 annual conference of the association at which the board was expected to be re-elected has been postponed.

Deputy political leader of the SLP, Peter Josie, called on the few farmers present to boycott all cutting of banana Wednesday, and said party members would travel around the countryside to spread the word.

Prime Minister Compton has charged that the association was being used to sabotage the industry—which provides St Lucia's number one export—undermine the government and to conduct a political campaign among farmers. But opposition members and the SLBGA chairman have countered saying the Compton and several prominent members of the ruling United Workers Party (UNWP) used the association as a platform to enter politics.

Addressing the crowd outside Parliament, SLP leader Julian Hunte said the opposition came to the house to discuss among other things a bill which, as was circulated, would have given the government the power to choose their own chairman and deputy chairman from among the delegates elected. "However we were surprised to see the minister of agriculture withdrawing the amendment and replacing it with a bill which as of today dissolves the entire SLBGA directorate," Hunte said. In presenting the bill during the sitting, the agriculture minister said that this action was necessary to save the industry from "total distruction". He told the house that recently "a clique which runs the association has been involved in confrontational politics, instead of seeing about the welfare of growers." The association's debt he said had risen from 5 million dollars (EC) in 1986 to 16 million dollars in 1987 (1 EC Dol; 37 cents U.S.). The minister said that the new banana act will seek to ensure a proper working relationship between the growers association and government.

Tuesday night's protest, held virtually on the steps of Parliament, was ruled by the speaker of the house to be illegally constituted. The sergeant-at-arms who was sent to disperse the crowd was ineffective, as were the police, who were heavily outnumbered.

Petricioli Clarifies U.S. Loan Conditions

PA2610191488 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Report by Humberto Mares]

[Text] President Miguel de la Madrid has arrived in Montevideo, Uruguay to begin a 3-day official visit. De la Madrid was welcomed at Carrasco Airport by Uruguayan Foreign Minister Luis Barrios Tassano. The Mexican president then went to the hotel where he will stay during his visit.

During a stop in Lima, Peru, the president talked for 1 hour with Peruvian President Alan Garcia. In Lima, Mexican Finance and Public Credit Secretary Gustavo Petricioli clarified to the media that neither President Miguel de la Madrid nor President-elect Carlos Salinas de Gortari conducted any under-the-table negotiations or have compromised the country with the $3.5 billion loan Mexico received from the United States. Petricioli clarified this is a contingency loan for the country to use if it becomes necessary; in other words, the $3.5 billion will not necessarily be used. He also explained that this loan is to face possible adverse situations that could occur due to a drop in oil prices. Petricioli added that this loan was negotiated to avoid using the country's international reserves and to allow the new government to receive the economy in the best condition possible.

This agreement, in which no concessions were made, Petricioli said, is a normal operation between the central banks of the respective countries, and is valid for a 90-day period. Petricioli also clarified that this type of measure is taken to avoid adopting other measures, such as a devaluation of the peso. The government believes the current exchange rate is suitable; therefore, it is ruling out any possibility of devaluating the currency, Petricioli said.

Senators on U.S. Loan

PA2710032288 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 19 Oct 88 p 7

[Report by Gabriela Tovar]

[Excerpts] Senator Jesus Rodriguez y Rodriguez said yesterday that Mexico is changing its infrastructure, adjusting government spending, and trying to follow a modern financial policy rather than a dictatorial financial policy against anyone in particular or against specific segments of society. This is what the government has most carefully tried to avoid, he said, adding that if credit is well used and well structured, it is appropriate and necessary.

The chairman of the Senate Finance Committee made the statement during a Senate session in response to a proposal by Senator Ifigenia Martinez that a commission come before the Senate to explain the $3.5-billion U.S. loan to Mexico. The proposal was rejected.

Rodriguez y Rodriguez said it is undignified to claim, as Senator Ifigenia Martinez said in her proposal, that the Mexican Government and Carlos Salinas de Gortari's victorious administration went abroad to find support for their plans and policies. [passage omitted]

Ifigenia Martinez expressed great concern over the U.S. loan because the offer is conditional on the approval of the IMF and the World Bank. "It is credit with strings attached," she said.

She said the incoming administration will be bound by this final action by Miguel de la Madrid's administration. She added that according to Mexican experts, this sort of financial policy has paralyzed the national economy and seriously damaged the country's future.

She said our government "continues to make the same mistakes" because it is opening the door to junk imports that are flooding the country, replacing Mexican goods. This is being done instead of following a policy of protecting our cash reserves and of combating the protectionism imposed by industrialized countries, she said.

Senator Porfirio Munoz Ledo backed Ifigenia Martinez' proposal and then referred to a letter Ronald Reagan sent to the U.S. Congress asking it to be more lenient toward Mexico on the narcotics issue.

"This $3.5-billion loan is a sort of bribe to Mexico to motivate it to continue the process of turning the economy over to the private sector. It is a U.S. Government bribe to the next administration to continue the current administration's policy of selling off state enterprises, which is so unpopular," he said. [passage omitted)

Trade Conditions Blamed for Lost Revenue

PA2710023088 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 19 Oct 88 p 1

[By Jorge Octavio Ochoa]

[Text] Hector Hernandez Cervantes, secretary of commerce and industrial development, told President Miguel de la Madrid yesterday that Mexico has lost $43 billion in revenue over the current 6-year period because of unfavorable international trade conditions. Hernandez said that if this sum had not been lost and had been added to Mexico's positive trade balance of $50 billion during the 1983-88 period, Mexico could have serviced its foreign debt without resorting to external credit and would still have a positive balance of $18.5 billion.

The commerce secretary gave this example to explain how the drop in the prices of raw materials—particularly oil—and the increase in the prices of most of the goods that Mexico imports have had a negative impact on the country's economy.

The data was released by Hernandez during a meeting that included a self-evaluation of his portfolio. He underscored that policies to promote nonoil exports have been successful and that this will result in an income to Mexico of $14 billion this year and $126 billion over the current 6-year term. He noted, however, that these achievements were not greater because of adverse world trade conditions.

Institute Reports July-August Trade Deficit

PA2610155888 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 24 Oct 88 pp 1, 13

[Report by J. Antonio Zuniga M.]

[Summary] For the first time in 6 years, Mexico's foreign trade registered a monthly deficit, the National Institute of Geography, Statistics, and Data Processing (INEGI) has reported.

There was a $130.7-million deficit during July and August, which wiped out all the export advantages derived from the devaluation of the peso against the dollar; therefore, during the period, no foreign exchange was earned from trade.

According to INEGI, the monthly trade balance surpluses reached $511.2 million in January; $514.2 million in February; $376.5 million in March; $275.9 million in April; and $99.5 million in June. However, between July and August, there was a deficit—something that has not occurred since 1982.

Companies Sign Agreements for Reducing Debt

FL2610223888 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2327 GMT 25 Oct 88

[All figures as received]

[Text] New York, 25 Oct (NOTIMEX)—The Visa S.A. organization, one of Mexico's largest economic conglomerates, signed an agreement to reduce the organization's debt, which is around $1.3 billion, said an official announcement today. This operation, in which several banks and multilateral agencies of the Mexican Government participated, is the largest undertaken to date by a private enterprise in Latin America. The agreement permits the Visa S.A. debt to be reduced from $1.7 billion to $400 million.

The private sector's debt has decreased drastically in the last 5 years. In 1983, the debt was $22.5 billion. Now, the debt is approximately $10 billion.

The group's debt reconstruction package includes the company's partial purchase by foreign partners, the exchange of debt for investment, and the selling of stocks.

Restructuring lets us expand new markets in Mexico, as well as abroad, said Ricardo Guajardo, general director of Visa. The company, which owns a beer factory and a soft-drink firm, will place special emphasis on the export market.

Visa is not the only industrial conglomerate to recently engage in this type of operation. In June, Apasco S.A., a cement company, reduced its debt from $200 million to $70 million. Shortly after, Salumi S.A. did the same thing and reduced its debt from $69 million to $20 million.

The net reduction of Visa's debt is divided in the following manner: $170 million will be bought by the new foreign partners, $230 million will be designated for operations and the selling of stock, and $60 million will be allotted to exchange debt for investment. The remaining amount will be traded for restructured notes and common stocks.

Morelos II To Become Operational in Apr

FL2610212588 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1732 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] Mexico City, 24 Oct (NOTIMEX)—The Morelos II communications satellite will begin its cycle of operations in April 1989. The Secretariat of Communications and Transportation (SCT) has reported that the satellite will operate at 50 percent of its capacity and will have an average life of 13.5 years. Due to the end of the useful life of the Morelos I satellite, which began operating in 1985, the new Morelos satellite will begin by complementing the operations of the first satellite, said the SCT.

The storage orbit [orbita de almacenamiento] of the Morelos I satellite has been very successful, said the SCT, which added that the geostationary orbit was proposed by Mexican engineers. SCT specialists said that all satellites must be 36,000 km above the earth within an imaginary cube of 70 km, and with an inclination of orbit that is parallel to the earth. New strategies are being used in positioning the Morelos II satellite, added the specialists, which will involve three steps.

The north-south position will maintain the satellite in orbit above the equator. The interstellar activity will alter the position of the satellite making it go up or down, depending on the activity, which will relocate the satellite every 28 days. This will increase [as received] the consumption of fuel.

The east-west position will occur every 28 days. This will place the satellite at a precise location, thus preventing it from moving to the extreme of a cardinal point.

The third step, the inclination of orbit, will help the satellite maintain a position parallel to the axis of the earth and will prevent it from adopting a different position.

Of the three operations mentioned, the Morelos II communications satellite will follow the first two steps (north-south, east-west). The geostationary orbit of the new satellite will not be different from that of the Morelos I. However, its inclination of orbit will be different.

The Morelos II satellite is approaching its orbit and will begin operations at 36,000 km. It will be able to rise or descend to the necessary height, which may be useful in case of an emergency or in an effort to support Morelos I.

Costa Rica

International Aid Arriving After Hurricane

PA2710032088 [Editorial Report] San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish at 1830 GMT on 26 October broadcasts a report on international aid being sent to Costa Rica in the wake of Hurricane Joan and a report providing updated casualty figures.

According to Patricia Salazar, press official of the National Emergency Commission, the EEC donated $60,000 to buy food; the !DB allocated $200,000 for any use; Spain donated powdered milk and tents; the United States donated $25,000 for fuel; and nongovernmental Canadian organizations donated $50,000 for housing. She adds that offers of aid have also arrived from the U.S. Red Cross, the FRG, and Great Britain.

The station reports that according to official figures, "27 people were killed as a result of Hurricane Joan." It adds that most of the casualties occurred in southern Costa Rica, where the heavy rains caused flooding. It states that because of the floods, the National Emergency Commission is having problems getting food and medicine to some 12,000 people in the area.

El Salvador

FMLN Group Occupies Radio Station in Capital

PA2610203388 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Report by Nelson Lopez]

[Excerpt] Armed individuals, who identified themselves as FMLN urban commandos, seized Radio Monumental today at noon. Radio Cadena Sonora went there and is able to report that the National Police evacuated the people who were inside Radio Monumental a few minutes ago. National Police experts are right now working on defusing two bombs left by the FMLN commandos, who said the bombs are very powerful.

We also wish to report that the people [inside the station] were evacuated through a small window whose glass panes were removed. They said two men and one woman broke into the radio station asking for a prize they said they had won. They immediately seized the station and threatened the employees, locking them in a small room. The Radio Monumental employees said the commandos later played a cassette recording of an antigovernment statement. [passage omitted]

Farabundo Marti Blames Army for Peasant Murders

PA2610221788 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 2300 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] The regime's useless attempts to deceive the public in regard to the murder of four peasants in Apopa jurisdiction only shows that the Yankee embassy and its puppets have become very desperate. There is no doubt that as a result of the San Sebastian case, the dictatorship has had to face a wave of international repudiation and greater resistance to repression by the Salvadoran people.

While people were still indignant over [Colonel Jose Emilio] Chavez Caceres' murder of 10 peasants in San Sebastian and while UN delegate Pastor Librueso was still in the country, another Duarte-style murder was perpetrated late on the night of 14 October—as is customary for the death squads—this time following orders from gorilla [Colonel] Orlando Zepeda. Four peasants of Tres Ceibas Canton, Apopa jurisdiction, were killed in cold blood, and their bodies were left a few meters from [words indistinct], in keeping with the methods learned in training given by the U.S. Embassy to the death squads directed by the Army's high commanders.

Now, in face of this new crime, Duarte's government again sees a wave of international repudiation coming its way. It is already feeling unbearable pressure from the people, who are demanding that the murderers be punished. (?It is not hard) for the people and the world to identify the perpetrator of these crimes. The Army and the High Command have earned an international reputation, and their actions have been widely denounced. Their current policy makes them no more than a large uniformed death squad. In the face of [words indistinct], the regime will try desperately to put up a smoke screen by issuing contradictory reports, which tend to make the big gorillas look very ridiculous, as in the case of drunkard [General Adolfo] Blandon and the incredible ambush.

Orlando Zepeda's murder of four peasants in Tres Ceibas is a criminal action that every day heightens the people's resistance to repression. The gorilla's coarse attempts to evade responsibility by blindly blaming the FMLN only increase popular repudiation of the entire government. Those coarse attempts by the death squads' High Command are to less avail today than ever, when the people and their vanguard have won the respect and recognition of Latin American peoples and governments. Today, more than ever, is when the revolutionary forces' generosity and good faith are demonstrated by presenting firm political initiatives at a time when the guerrilla army is achieving its greatest military victories and the people are resolutely organizing themselves and taking part in the revolutionary struggle.

ARENA Mayor Killed in Morazan; FMLN Blamed

PA2710045288 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] The mayor of the village of Sociedad in Morazan Department was murdered last night by individuals who identified themselves as belonging to the FMLN.

Preliminary reports indicate that ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] Mayor Lucio Salvador was taken from his house at 2300 last night.

Sources at the village said that a few moments after being taken from his home, several shots were heard, and the mayor's body was later found. At this moment, there is no known motive for the killing. This brings to three the number of mayors killed by the FMLN.

Rebel Killed, 3 Wounded in Morazan Clash

PA2710040388 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1600 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Special units from the 4th Military Detachment's Lenca Battalion based in San Francisco Gotera were involved in heavy fighting with FMLN rebels in the (Avelines) area, Guatajiagua jurisdiction, Morazan Department.

The Army reports that a rebel known as Carlos was killed and that three others were wounded in the clash. The Lenca Battalion also seized an M-16 rifle and other military materiel. According to the report, the 4th Military Detachment did not suffer any casualties.

Guatemala

Tropical Storm Miriam Stays Off Coast

PA2510021488 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Excerpts] The INSIVUMEH [National Institute of Seismology, Vulcanology, Meteorology, and Hydrology] reported a few moments ago that right now the center of tropical storm Miriam is off the coast on the border between Guatemala and Mexico. [passage omitted]

The storm is moving west and at no time did it touch Guatemalan territory. However, its effects were felt throughout the country. Tropical storm Miriam stayed off the Guatemalan coast for several hours. [passage omitted]

Panama

Decree Declaring National State of Emergency

PA2610143388 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 26 Oct 88 pp A-1, B-3

["Text" of Decree No 72 issued by Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, and Targidio A. Bernal Guardia, acting government and justice minister, in Panama City on 25 October]

[Text] Decree No 72 (25 October 1988)

Declaring a national state of emergency

The minister in charge of the Presidency, using his legal powers,

Whereas:

—In the last few days, important areas of the national territory have been seriously affected by the destructive effects of Hurricane Joan's heavy rains, which have flooded productive areas, destroyed important roads and bridges, and caused landslides;

—The preceding has resulted in the loss of lives and extensive damage to property, which has especially adversely affected economic activity, roads, and public service facilities, such as aqueducts and houses, and irreparably damaged agricultural production in general;

—Following an analysis of the extent of the disaster and the damage caused, a multidisciplinary unit appointed by the executive branch and the National Civil Protection Council has recommended the executive branch declare a national state of emergency to facilitate the implementation of measures that may be needed to face the disaster situation caused by the hurricane's destructive effects;

—Article 7, Clauses a) and b) of Law 22 issued in 1982 gives the National Civil Protection Council the power to recommend that the executive branch issue executive decrees and regulations in case of disasters and to declare a national state of emergency.

Decrees:

Article 1: To declare a national state of emergency in the entire territory of the Republic of Panama.

Article 2: To instruct all ministries and decentralized institutions to provide assistance, support, and supplies and to deploy the personnel needed to repair, as soon as possible, the damage caused, especially in the areas of transportation, health services, food, agricultural activities, aqueducts, sewers, electricity, and housing.

Article 3: To declare of priority interest the implementation of government programs aimed at achieving the proper solutions to restore and repair property and facilities adversely affected by the disaster.

Article 4: To authorize the Planning and Economic Policy Ministry, the Public Works Ministry, and the Agricultural Development Ministry—in coordination with the Foreign Ministry—to seek international assistance to help repair the damage caused by the disaster.

Article 5: This decree will be in effect upon its approval.

To be announced and published

Signed in Panama City on 25 October 1988

Manuel Solis Palma, Minister in Charge of the Presidency
Targidio A. Bernal Guardia, Acting Government and Justice Minister

Churches on Efforts To Begin National Dialogue
PA2710035788 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2213 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Panama City, 26 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—Panama's Christian churches today said the government and the opposition hold "positions that are so antagonistic" that it has been impossible to hold the national dialogue the churches advocate as a solution to the political and economic crisis that has plagued the country for the past 17 months.

In a communique sent to ACAN-EFE today, the Catholic Episcopal Conference and the Ecumenical Committee—composed of the Episcopal, Methodist, Lutheran, and Baptist churches—state that they will nevertheless "continue their efforts, albeit with some changes, and will work with people and groups willing to cooperate" to begin a national dialogue.

For the past 2 months the churches have been trying to establish contacts between government leaders, the opposition, and the Panama Defense Forces [FDP]. Their communique states that they "were well received" by all involved, but their efforts, nevertheless, were hindered by the sides' antagonistic positions.

"The opposition," the communique explains, "is demanding adherence to constitutional rights prior to beginning a dialogue, the FDP is willing to hold talks without preconditions, and President Manuel Solis Palma is demanding that the opposition end its aggression against Panama prior to the talks."

The Christian churches stress that their efforts "are prompted by the grief the national crisis has caused the Panamanian people, especially the poorest, hungry children, the unemployed, the lack of adequate care for the elderly, and the anguish suffered over relatives who have been detained or are being held incommunicado."

"Likewise," the communique adds, "we have all been affected by the hospitals lack of medicine, schools lacking teaching materials, highways in need of repair, and an economy moving rapidly toward an even greater catastrophe."

Since June 1987, Panama has experienced one of the worst political and economic crises of its history, for which the opposition and government are blaming each other. The government also blames the situation on the economic sanctions the United States has imposed on Panama.

CRITICA Urges Dialogue 'Without Washington'
PA2610142988 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 26 Oct 88 p 1

[Editorial: "To Hold a Dialogue Without Washington"]

[Text] The Panama Defense Forces [FDP] have reiterated their willingness to hold a dialogue with opposition leaders, but without the mediation of Washington.

The FDP understands that a dialogue is not for surrendering to Washington or for yielding to the United States' brutal policy of aggression and psychological warfare—unprecedented in the recent history of hemispheric relations—or for breaking its commitment with those who are enduring poverty and demanding their legitimate rights to live without hunger and with dignity.

We are pleased to observe that prominent opposition leaders are now publicly condemning the United States' economic aggression and demanding respect for national sovereignty and dignity. Washington is being left alone, without any domestic spokesmen for its arrogant and criminal policy against Panama.

The politically responsible parties—government and opposition—should pursue a dialogue, a serious and constructive dialogue that should lead to formulas to defend national dignity and to specific advances in democracy, but without undermining the defense of our territory. The dialogue should not yield to the blackmail of the military bases and should not impair our obligation to remove from the countries the troops that exceed the agreed upon number and that threaten peace and encourage war and aggression in Panama and the rest of the area.

Opposition Deputies Criticize U.S. Sanctions
PA2610164788 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0410 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Caracas, 25 Oct (EFE)—A group of Panamanian opposition legislators in Caracas today protested the violation of democratic rights in Panama and said "the U.S. policy of imposing sanctions on the Panamanian Government is mistaken."

The parliamentarians, headed by Guillermo Cochez, vice president of the Christian Democratic Party (PDC), met with their Venezuelan counterparts Eudoro Gonzalez, president of the Chamber of Deputies' Foreign Policy Commission, and Julio Camino.

Cochez said the Panamanian problem cannot be solved with general elections. He said the problem stems from the fact that military leaders remain as a fundamental force in the government's decisions.

The Panamanian opposition leader said the United States is making a mistake by imposing economic sanctions on the Panamanian Government, as the people must suffer the effects of those sanctions.

Cochez stressed that because of those sanctions, "an anti-U.S. feeling" is growing in Panama because the country's economic woes are attributed to that policy.

The PDC leader added that the United States should be more specific and selective in its policy in order to "wipe out the top military echelons, corruption, and drug trafficking."

Other Panamanian legislators noted that Latin American governments have abstained from criticizing human rights violations in Panama "for fear that their efforts might be viewed as intervention."

They added that in so doing "they do not seem to realize that a defenseless population suffering from domestic aggression requires immediate help from its closest neighbor."

In addition to Cochez, the other members of the Panamanian delegation—which will conclude its visit tomorrow—are PDC Legislator Carlos Arellano Lenox, Arturo Vallarino of the Labor Party, and Vianor Serracin, of the Authentic Panamenist Party.

The parliamentarians said they are members of the Civic Crusade, an organization they said comprises 200 civic and labor organizations, five opposition political parties, and groups opposed to the government.

PPA Leader Cited

PA2610181788 Paris AFP in Spanish 0451 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Panama City, 25 Oct (AFP)—Panamanian Legislator Antonio Arias, a leader of the opposition Authentic Panamenist Party (PPA), today accused the United States of "committing a grave mistake" by using economic sanctions against Panama to force the ouster of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces.

Arias, a leader of the PPA, which is Panama's main opposition party, stressed that "the Panamanian people, who are suffering the consequences of those sanctions, are not a problem for the United States; Noriega is."

Arias said that although the U.S. Government sanctioned Panama due to Noriega's alleged links with international drug trafficking activities, "no measures have been taken against Colombia, from where a large quantity of drugs is exported."

Arias added that there are other countries, such as Bolivia and Peru, where drug traffickers operate and "where military leaders have done as they wish, ignoring liberties and violating human rights, but no sanctions have been used against them."

As a result of Washington's economic pressures against Panama since March, the country has been confronted with a serious economic crisis that even led to the closure of banks and financial institutions.

Suarez Nominated PPR Presidential Candidate

PA2710010788 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 26 Oct 88 pp 1, B-4

[Article by Camilo O. Baruco]

[Excerpts] Dr Jaime Paz, Revolutionary Panamenist Party [PPR] international relations secretary, has visited LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA's offices to announce Luis Gaspar "Toti" Suarez' presidential candidacy. Suarez will represent the PPR in the 1989 presidential elections. [passage omitted]

Dr Jaime Paz said that the PPR has already announced its participation in the 1989 elections. The international relations secretary also added that the PPR has been campaigning to obtain supporters and that "the party has several candidates for corregimiento representatives and legislators." [passage omitted]

Dr Paz said that "Toti" Suarez has agreed to take up the PPR's banner and accept the nomination. [passage omitted]

Shultz Said Favoring Bechtel in Canal Study

PA2710000988 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 26 Oct 88 pp 1, 22

[Unattributed article]

[Text] Washington— Reports have spread here about the hasty blackmail and pressure exerted by the U.S. secretary of state to have documents approved that authorize the Bechtel Corporation to carry out the feasibility study for an alternative to the Panama Canal.

High-ranking U.S. State Department officials, who asked to remain anonymous, said Secretary of State George Shultz had set a deadline (end of October) for the documents' approval, arguing that the upcoming U.S. presidential elections endanger the California corporation's preliminary investments. This has resulted in all kinds of pressure and blackmail.

Although it is easy to notice the nervousness among top executives at the Bechtel Corporation's headquarters in California and at its offices in Washington, there is no information about the "large preliminary investments" Shultz referred to. There is speculation, however, that this refers to payments to prominent Reagan administration officials. These officials, who were constantly "lobbied," are the ones who will decide which company gets the contract or who have access to information on this decision.

George Shultz was a top-level executive of the Bechtel Corporation for a long time, as was former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, who is a member of the company's board of directors. The Bechtel Corporation has enjoyed all kinds of special privileges since Shultz became secretary of state in 1983. Furthermore, the U.S.

State Department hired the company to prepare a report on the Panama Canal and the alternatives being considered by a tripartite commission composed of Japan, the United States, and Panama.

The U.S. State Department then presented a proposal to the Panama Canal Commission for carrying out the feasibility study. The State Department presented the proposal as its own when, in fact, it was originally prepared by the Bechtel Corporation.

Tax Clearance Needed To Buy Airline Tickets

PA2710041488 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 26 Oct 88 p 2

[Article by Garritt Geneteau]

[Excerpt] Effective 1 November, Article 739 of the Tax Code will apply to travel agencies and airline companies that sell tickets for travel abroad. The article establishes that individuals are obliged to request and obtain tax clearance certificates or alternate valid documents.

Ricardo Levy, revenue director of the Finance and Treasury Ministry, told LA REPUBLICA that an agreement to this effect was signed at a meeting yesterday with representatives of the Panamanian Association of Airlines and the Association of Travel Agencies. The agreement states, among other things, that "individuals or companies that are obliged to pay taxes in accordance with Section 7 of Article 739 and that issue tickets for travel abroad without demanding the presentation of the tax clearance certificate or an alternate document (canceled checks or receipts for payments to the Social Security Institute)—photocopies of which must be kept in the companies' files—will be fined as established in Article 743 of the Tax Code." [passage omitted]

Official Reports Drop in Education Tax Revenue

PA2710004388 Panama City MEDIODIA in Spanish 25 Oct 88 p 6

[Summary] Benjamin Colamarco, director of the IFARHU [Human Resources and Training Institute], has reported to MEDIODIA that there has been a 15 million balboa decline in the government's collection of the education tax. He said that the state had estimated that it would collect nearly 40 million balboas from the education tax this year. He added that this much will not be collected, however, since the private sector has dismissed approximately 50,000 workers, who because of their unemployed status no longer pay this tax. Colamarco said that this will mean a reduction in the benefits the IFARHU provides to Panamanian students.

Argentina

Alfonsin on Foreign Debt, Group of Eight Meeting

PY2610191888 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Report from Government House by Silvina Martinez Porta]

[Text] President Raul Alfonsin has said the foreign debt issue will be discussed in a different way after the U.S. presidential elections.

Alfonsin believes this because he has written both George Bush and Michael Dukakis, and their responses lead him to believe it will be possible to hold fruitful talks with either of them as president.

These remarks were made by Dr Alfonsin this morning at the opening ceremony of the 64th ordinary general assembly of the Association of Argentine Cooperatives, which is held every year at the Nacion Bank building.

Alfonsin said he will meet with Isabel Peron after he returns from Punta del Este, a beach resort where the second Group of Eight presidential meeting will begin tomorrow.

Concerning the foreign debt issue, Dr Alfonsin said the following:

[Begin Alfonsin recording] I have no doubts that next year the foreign debt issue will be discussed in a different way.

I have written to the two U.S. presidential candidates, and they have answered me—both Mr Bush and Mr Dukakis. We believe it will be possible to hold fruitful talks with either of them as president. In other words, there will be a change, which we must take advantage of by insisting on seriousness and not demagoguery, reasonableness and not immoderacy, subtler negotiations and not fruitless screaming—because this is the way countries with fewer resources must proceed.

The primary duty of the government of an underdeveloped country is to be serious about its international realtions, because this is how it can be heard and taken into account. [end recording]

These were some of the remarks Dr Alfonsin made this morning.

It is worth pointing out that Justicialist vice presidential hopeful Eduardo Duhalde was also invited and attended the opening ceremony.

Later, upon leaving the Nacion Bank building, the president said he would probably meet with Peron's widow next week, after he returns from Punta del Este. Dr Alfonsin held a brief chat with the press:

[Begin recording] [Alfonsin] I am about to depart for Uruguay, where we will have a chance to discuss Latin American problems and work toward achieving integration.

[Unidentified reporter] Will you meet with the lady on your way back, Dr Alfonsin? Will you meet with Mrs Peron later?

[Alfonsin] No, no. I think I will do that after I return. [end recording]

These were Dr Alfonsin's brief remarks. He will meet with Peron's widow after he returns from Uruguay.

Dr Alfonsin will depart for Uruguay this afternoon at about 1600. He is scheduled to return to Buenos Aires next Saturday afternoon.

Leaves for Summit

PY2610205388 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1926 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Oct (TELAM)—President Raul Alfonsin and his entourage left today at 1614 on board the TC02 presidential plane for Punta del Este, Uruguay, where Alfonsin will attend the Group of Eight summit.

Alfonsin expressed his confidence that he and his counterparts will be able to work well for the region, for Latin America. He added: We are going to touch on all issues relevant to regional development, integration, peace, and democracy.

In a ceremony held at the VIP room of the Aeroparque airport shortly before boarding the plane, President Alfonsin transferred his presidential powers to Vice President Victor Martinez.

Alfonsin Criticizes Justicialist Candidate Menem

PY2610112788 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Excerpts] Today President Raul Alfonsin harshly criticized Carlos Saul Menem, the Justicialist Party presidential candidate and La Rioja Province governor. Alfonsin's remarks were made during the inauguration of the 31st Convention of the Argentine Federation of Agricultural Cooperatives in Mar del Plata.

[Begin Alfonsin recording] [Passage omitted] Let us avoid hate, let us avoid sectarianisms, let us avoid false accusations, let as not forget our scruples, and let us remember that honest politicians must accept the judgment of the people via the ballot boxes. This is the only way political judgment can be passed on politicians in a democracy. [applause].

We are going through difficult times. Our difficulties have not been created by the government, or by any particular sector. The economic crisis, which you understand better than anyone, has for the most part been imposed on us because it derives from a foreign debt that was inherited, and that was not used to capitalize the country. It is also a consequence of the abuse of an international economic system that has caused the prices of our exports to fall. [passage omitted]

We all must do our duty, speak the truth, and give our opinions on all our problems. Anyone can criticize the performance of others, but we must also propose solutions to our problems. We cannot tell the entrepreneurial sector that we are going to lower taxes by 50 percent and at the same time tell workers that we are going to sharply raise their salaries. This is a conspiracy against the future of the country. [applause].

The government thinks that if we are to combat inflation we must sharply reduce our fiscal deficit. Some people do not seem to understand this and purport to cover their clear ineptitude and inefficiency by blaming the federal government for their own mistakes in the provinces they govern.

In La Rioja Province, for instance, we can say that instead of an administration we have complete chaos. The figures are clear: During the present term the level of government expenditures has increased by 80 percent in real terms, and the number of government employees has increased by 50 percent. I do not know what world record the La Rioja governor is after; however, I can make a responsible assessment and say he is the worst governor in the Argentine Republic. [applause] [passage omitted]

Alfonsin Meets With Mauritius' Boolell

PY2610124388 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
0342 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Oct (TELAM)—This afternoon, President Raul Alfonsin met with Satcam Boolell, external affairs and emigration minister of Mauritius, at Government House.

During the meeting they reviewed the current international panorama.

After the meeting, Foreign Relations Secretary Susana Ruiz Cerutti, who also participated in the meeting, told reporters that Alfonsin and Boolell had noted that their respective nations are in agreement on many points.

The official stated that the meeting focused on the possibility of increasing bilateral relations through cooperation and exchange of information concerning problems common to the two countries, which have a similar level of development, foreign debt, and international trade.

Prior to his meeting with Boolell, Alfonsin granted an audience to Ambassador Fausto Zapata Loreto, special envoy of Mexican President-elect Carlos Salinas.

Brazilian Navy Chief of Staff Arrives for Visit

PY2610113088 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish
2226 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Oct (DYN)—Today Squadron Admiral Hugo Stoeffel, Brazilian Navy chief of staff, arrived in Buenos Aires on an official visit that will conclude on 1 November.

Stoeffer was met at Ezeiza Airport by his Argentine colleague, Admiral Ramon Arosa, and other Argentine Navy officers.

During his stay in Argentina, the Brazilian Navy officer will meet with local military authorities and with Defense Minister Horacio Jaunarena. He will also tour the Navy's installations in Buenos Aires, Mar del Plata, and Bahia Blanca.

Bolivia

Cocaine Sale to Soviet Drug Institute Discussed

PY2710025988 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish
20 Oct 88 p 7

[Excerpt] Social Defense Under Secretary Jorge Alderete Rosales has said that the Bolivian Government is analyzing the possibility of selling 100 kg of cocaine to a Soviet pharmaceutical institution.

Alderete said the Soviet Embassy has officially submitted the order to the Bolivian Government and that the government's legal advisers are analyzing the matter to see if there are any legal obstacles to the deal.

The government revealed the news yesterday after it was learned that the Peruvian Government sold 2,000 kg of cocaine through the firm Coca Enterprise [Empresa de la Coca] and intends to collect a little over $2 million for it.

Alderete said that many foreign pharmaceutical laboratories have shown an interest in purchasing cocaine, essentially for pharmacological and biochemical research.

Alderete said Peru is not the only country interested in selling cocaine. Other producer countries also operate in this field, but always with laboratories dedicated to scientific research, Alderete added.

However, Alderete said, all deals with dangerous drugs have to be authorized by the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs. [passage omitted]

Brazil

Sarney on 'Complex' Situation in Country, Summit

PY2710023988 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] To those who are forecasting institutional threats President Sarney retorted that no one will upset things in the country. He made this statement before boarding the plane to Uruguay.

[Begin Sarney recording] We will continue to consolidate our democratic institutions in the country until the end of my term. No one will upset things in this country. We will not have that kind of institutional problem. [end recording]

The president admitted that the situation in Brazil is complex, but not bad enough to cause him to fail to meet his international commitments.

[Begin Sarney recording] We will meet with the Latin American presidents. This summit takes place every year, and preparation began a year ago; the absence of Brazil could send the wrong signal. Brazil should not be absent because, first, the country is consolidating its institutions, and there is no institutional threat at all. Second, the absence of Brazil could frustrate the presidential summit. [end recording]

Regarding the concern of some groups over the economic crisis and its consequences, President Sarney said that such concerns are normal during a transition period, but there are some groups who wish to take advantage of the situation.

[Begin Sarney recording] Naturally, during a transition period, there are groups who wish to take advantage of the constitutional [words indistinct] to form trade unions, to occupy some fields now that the Constitution has broadened freedom, to gain more votes before the next elections, and there are yet others, who are well known in the country, who constantly preach chaos.

I think that the scorched earth policy preached by those groups is the most burnt out policy of all. [end recording]

Departs for Summit Meeting

PY2610173088 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1500 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] At this very moment President Jose Sarney is traveling to Uruguay, where he will participate in the meeting of the Group of Eight, which is comprised of the presidents of Latin American countries.

During the 3-day meeting, to be held in Punta del Este, the participants will discuss the foreign debt.

Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes will be acting president until 29 October, when President Sarney will return to Brazil.

Armed Forces Deny Report on Troop Number Hike

PY2610212988 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 19 Oct 88 p A-10

[By Dalton Moreira]

[Excerpt] Brazilian military officers have refuted the figures published by the International Institute for Strategic Studies [IISS], based in London, which show an 8 percent increase in the number of Brazilian Armed Forces troops during the past 12 months.

According to data disclosed by the Armed Forces General Staff (EMFA), even with the creation of new military units such as the Army's Aviation Battalion, the number of troops remains the same, 223,000 men. The IISS said that Brazil has 319,000 troops.

In its chapter on Latin America, the report states that during the past 12 months the number of Armed Forces' troops has grown by approximately 8 percent, and now stands at 319,000 men.

According to the report this increase has come about because the Army has increased its troops by more than 10 percent, to 218,000 men, in keeping with its goal of having 296,000 men by 1993.

The IISS also refers to the "Navy's ambitious long-term program," which provides for the development of a nuclear submarine and the construction of conventional submarines, among other things. [passage omitted]

Chile

Interior Ministry Official Cardemil Resigns

PY2610182488 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Report by Eliana Enriquez from La Moneda Palace]

[Text] President Augusto Pinochet has accepted the resignation of Interior Ministry Under Secretary Alberto Cardemil and he has named a successor.

Cardemil made the announcement, but he declined to give the name of the person who will replace him. However, it has unofficially been learned that it will be Gonzalo Garcia, former general manager of the FISA [Santiago Industrial Fair] and a former secretary general of National Renewal. Presumably, he will be installed tomorrow.

Cardemil stated that he will not take up another post within the government and that he will work as a lawyer and in private sector politics. He also stated that he does not plan to join any political party, indicating that unity must be sought, a process in which he hopes to cooperate.

He urges all the people who campaigned for the yes-vote to remain optimistic, indicating that the national plan remains intact and that its objectives can be achieved.

Cardemil emphatically denied the rumors that on the night of the plebiscite the government had intended to commit fraud or not to acknowledge a victory of the no-vote. He also termed as false the rumors about a coup d'etat.

[Begin Cardemil recording] All the rumors about coups d'etat, about uprisings, that were circulating before and after the plebiscite are carpricious and absolutely false.

Also, no one lost their calm on that day. Everyone knew what he had to do, and I believe that all Chileans were witness to this when they viewed their television sets or when they listened to their radios. And, at 0200 the government gave Chileans the final results—or the nearly final results, because the final results were released the next day—the results that the no-vote was the winner. [end recording]

Cardemil added that the assertions that the government wanted to have 1 million votes favoring the yes-vote before releasing other results are also completely false.

Regarding the delay in releasing the results, Cardemil indicated that internal aspects had to be adopted in order to guarantee that the Constitution and the law were complied with, and he insisted that in no way did the Interior Ministry meddle with the results.

University Students Attack Police Vehicle

PY2610180588 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] La Serena University students attacked a police vehicle with Molotov cocktails. They caused only minor damage thanks to the quick intervention of policemen, who used fire extinguishers to prevent the vehicle from being completely destroyed.

This incident occurred when a group of university students arrived at the campus and demanded Rector Luis Joaquin Ramirez Pineda's resignation.

Carabineros dispersed the demonstrators, who were causing disorder in the streets close to the university, and arrested five student leaders. As a result of these arrests, the students attacked the police vehicle with Molotov cocktails. The detaineess were released a few hours later.

University authorities said that existing regulations will be applied and that they will resort to the courts and to the police whenever the security of people and their property are threatened.

Correction to FPMR Announces 'Patriotic War'

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "FPMR Announces 'National Patriotic War,'" published in the 26 October Latin American DAILY REPORT, pages 32-33:

page 32, column one, paragraph nine, line four: ...negotiations under a provisional government."

According to... (changing word "provincial" to "provisional")

page 32, column two, last paragraph, line one: ...the Communist Party, he said that the Communists had adopted a "convenient silence." He added that since June... (rewording)

Colombia

Barco Leaves for Uruguay; Strike Call Criticized

PA2610230888 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Report by Jesus Garzon; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] A call to preserve national public order was made by the government this morning, as President Virgilio Barco left for Uruguay.

Under strict security measures, the Colombian president, accompanied by his wife, his daughter, Foreign Minister Julio Londono, and Finance Minister Luis Fernando Alarcon, left for Punta del Este, Uruguay, where he will participate in the Group of Eight summit meeting.

Government Minister Cesar Gaviria Trujillo asked labor organizations to reconsider their decision to call for a strike and he announced measures to preserve national public order.

[Begin Gaviria recording] We hope the isolated actions carried out by the guerrillas in certain parts of the country will not adversely affect conditions here, which should be marked by hard work and support for the institutions we have established with so much effort. I believe the labor organizations have until midnight tonight to reconsider their strike decision, which cannot be justified. [end recording]

Defense Minister General Rafael Samudio Molina condemned the terrorist actions that took place in Peque municipality, Antioquia Department, and he said he trusted that institutions will be strengthened despite threats from the rebels.

[Begin Samudio recording] In addition to the strike called by labor organizations, the guerrillas are taking advantage of the situation to draft a military plan, which

has been implemented. We have faith, optimism, and confidence. The country can be sure that its institutions will be preserved. [end recording]

President Barco will return home on Saturday.

Government Measures To Counteract Planned Strike
PA2610234988 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Report by Jesus Garzon from Narino Palace in Bogota]

[Text] The national government has just issued a series of measures to counteract the negative effects that could be caused by the civic strike called by labor organizations for tomorrow.

Here in the Narino presidential palace, Gabriel Gutierrez, press and information secretary, gives us details of the measures.

[Begin Gutierrez recording] These are instructions given to governors, commissariats, mayors, managers, and directors of decentralized public institutions. Among the instructions are the following:

It is considered inappropriate to grant authorization to hold rallies, parades, marches, or demonstrations beginning today and until such time as the public order situation will allow it. Special protection will be provided to electric power plants, telephone installations, aqueducts, bridges, and all public services in general, the suspension of which could endanger normal activities.

The release of information will be the responsibility of governors, commissariats, mayors, and military authorities, who will report on the public order situation in their respective jurisdictions. The information must be released periodically in a truthful, objective, and calm manner. Public officials or employees who refuse to carry out their duties, who prevent others from using public services, or who prevent other officials from carrying out their duties without a justified reason on the occasion of the announced strike will be investigated and disciplinary action will be taken against them. [end recording]

In addition to these new measures issued by the government, Government Minister Cesar Gaviria Trujillo will issue new ones tonight to counteract the negative effects of the national strike called by labor organizations for tomorrow.

Acting President on Steps
PA2710044788 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0306 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Address to the nation by Acting President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo in Bogota—live]

[Excerpts] Colombians: As you all know, a strike is planned for tomorrow by some labor unions in open defiance of our laws and the wishes of the overwhelming majority of the Colombian people. Meanwhile, President Barco today began a 3-day visit to Punta del Este, Uruguay, to attend the presidential summit of the Group of Eight.

While touching on international issues, I must mention with patriotic satisfaction and happiness the honor bestowed upon Colombia, which was elected a member of the UN Security Council. Colombia was elected as a Latin American representative with the highest vote ever in that prestigious body. This vote is the international community's generous recognition of our country's serious, wise handling of foreign policy. At the same time, this vote is the international community's clear rejection of the campaign of disinformation and slander promoted by some of the left-wing organizations involved in tomorrow's strike.

After receiving instructions from Colombian President Virgilio Barco, as acting president I address the country to explain three basic things: the actions the government undertook to prevent the strike, the measures it has taken to allow good citizens to go to work tomorrow, and the efforts it is undertaking to guarantee peace and order, with the firmness and calm demanded by the circumstances. [passage omitted]

The best way for the people to express their rejection of this senseless and unjustified strike is by going to work. We must all show our commitment to peace and order by going to work. Those who stay at home are cooperating with the strike organizers and subversion. We know that there are people who want to create problems and groups that want to promote disturbances. The government has taken the necessary measures to prevent this. [passage omitted]

A plan has been drawn up to coordinate the actions of all the government agencies so as to effectively support the authorities in maintaining public order. Instructions have been issued for the protection and security of public facilities, offices, buildings, and roads. Departmental and municipal officials were also asked to constantly keep the public informed about events in a truthful, objective manner.

In addition, the Colombian president yesterday convened a cabinet meeting to issue several state of siege decrees. They aim to prevent possible disruptions of public order and to guarantee normal working conditions throughout Colombia. For example, to guarantee

that you can travel to your places of employment tomorrow, the creation of new insurance against damage was ordered. It covers all urban and intermunicipal buses. This insurance is already in effect. It provides sufficient guarantees to bus drivers so that not a single bus—listen to me carefully, not a single public bus—will have to halt service on its usual routes in the urban and rural areas. The government has also decided that companies or drivers who refuse to provide such services will be fined, arrested, or have their routes canceled. A specially created municipal transportation committee in each and every municipality of the country will make sure that the streets are clear and will establish special transportation systems to overcome any transportation problems. Other measures were also taken to punish those who tomorrow or in the next few days try, either individually or collectively, to create disorder or promote acts of violence or terrorism.

In addition, to prevent the news media from being used to sow chaos and anxiety among Colombians, various controls were established on reports on public order. The government is certain that media cooperation will render the application of the severe sanctions established in the corresponding state of siege decree unnecessary.

The police, Army, and security organizations are, of course, on alert and fully prepared to protect the people. Members of the Armed Forces will be on the streets maintaining peace and order and ensuring the safety of Colombians who chose to go to work, and I hope all of you do. I am sure the soldiers will behave in their usual firm, professional, and forthright manner.

Finally, and considering that the strike is illegal, unjustified, and the result of mere political interests aimed at destabilizing our democratic institutions, the labor minister has been authorized to suspend the legal status of labor unions or federations that organize, direct, promote, or in any way encourage the strike.

Fellow citizens, the strike scheduled for tomorrow is unjustifiable from any point of view. It weakens the talks the government has held with the labor unions and it is prompted by an effort to create instability and not by a desire to benefit the workers and Colombia. It is the result of the inconsistency that led the labor unions to reject the sensible offers made by the government after sincere and cordial discussions. It disregards the efforts all working Colombians are making to build a better, vigorous, prosperous Colombia, where peace, tolerance, and respect for life and democracy can prevail.

All Colombians, whether in the countryside or cities, should go to work tomorrow to defend these ideals and institutions, this legacy of several generations. We must work tomorrow to reject the guerrillas' violence, confrontation, and barbarism. With faith in our country's promising future, with faith in the benefits of reconciliation, I urge all Colombians to go to work tomorrow. Let us stage a campaign in Colombia's defense. The majority of Colombians must not allow a small minority to paralyze the country. The authorities will act firmly and calmly to guarantee public order and the citizens' peace. Good evening.

Acting President Urges Work

PA2710131688 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1220 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Statement by Acting President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo in Bogota—live]

[Text] Colombians: Last night I addressed the country to point out the inappropriateness and dangers posed by a strike planned by labor unions and to announce the measures decreed by the government to ensure calm and to maintain public order.

I have been at the Narino presidential palace. This morning I have had the opportunity to exchange views with authorities from throughout the nation and with several ministers and security organizations. I can tell you that at this moment calm reigns throughout the entire country.

All authorities are acting under the strict instructions and the decrees we have issued. I can assure you that there are full guarantees and that transportation services are operational in all Colombian cities and towns.

I urge all of you—workers, laborers, peasants—who support the Constitution and our democracy to go to work. This violent [words indistinct] in defense of our Constitution, our democracy, and Colombia depends on your attitude, on the attitude of each good Colombian, on those who love peace, reconciliation, and who advocate peaceful solutions to social conflicts. Let us go to work today for the sake of a democratic and pluralist Colombia. Thank you very much.

Labor Leaders Arrested

PA2710012388 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2330 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Excerpts] Bogota, 26 Oct (EFE)—The Permanent Committee in Defense of Human Rights [Comite Permanent de Defensa de los Derechos Humanos] today told EFE that the state security services arrested 13 Colombian labor leaders who are charged with calling a general strike for tomorrow, 27 October.

In a communique signed by its president, Alfredo Vasquez Carrizosa, the committee also appealed to the government to respect human rights during the general strike to be held by the country's three main labor confederations.

The United Confederation of Workers (CUT), the General Confederation of Labor (CGT), and the Confederation of Colombian Workers (CTC) called the nationwide strike to demand wage increases, a freeze in the prices of staples, and the disbanding of the extreme right-wing paramilitary groups.

After releasing the communique, a spokesman for the human rights committee told EFE that 2 labor leaders, including Ricardo Reina of the bus drivers union, were arrested on Tuesday night and that 11 other leaders were arrested today at their homes, jobs, or union headquarters.

The labor leaders arrested today include Julio Carrascal, national president of the Workers Trade Union (USO), to which the petroleum workers belong. He was arrested by troops in Barrancabermeja, in northeastern Colombia, when the USO headquarters was raided.

Ligia Caceres, a leader of the National Federation of Workers at the Service of the State, was arrested at the Bogota offices of the National Administrative Department of Statistics, where she works. [passage omitted]

Police sources reported that in Uraba, a banana region in northwestern Colombia, two bridges were blown up and barricades were erected on another bridge today to prevent the transportation of bananas from the banana plantations. They also reported that a banana plantation was also set on fire in this same region.

Bogota and the country's main cities and industrial zones have been placed under military control. The Communist Party of Colombia today charged that its headquarters was raided and that the CUT headquarters in central Bogota is surrounded by troops.

Guerrillas Propose 'Democratic Popular Accord'

PA2610161388 Paris AFP in Spanish 0443 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Panama City, 25 Oct (AFP)—Today, the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board (CGSB), composed of six armed Colombian groups, proposed to President Virgilio Barco's government the start of "negotiations for a democratic popular accord" to rescue Colombia from its economic and political crisis.

The CGSB issued a document here today demanding that "a large national people's convention" be held in Colombia to secure peace between the government and the guerrillas.

The document, signed by 20 commanders of the rebel National Liberation Army, Popular Liberation Army, Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, 19 April Movement (M-19), Revolutionary Workers Party, and Quintin Lame Movement, advocates uniting all guerrilla organizations active in Colombia.

"We reiterate to the public our commitment to search for a real political solution," the CGSB stated. On 24 October, the CGSB proposed to President Virgilio Barco a meeting between leaders of the groups and government authorities.

Paraguay

New U.S. Envoy Compared Favorably to Predecessor

PY2610204088 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 26 Oct 88 p 14

[From "Commenting on the News" column]

[Text] Timothy Towell, the new U.S. ambassador to our country, is so far "behaving well."

Honestly speaking, if we compare his activities to those of his predecessor after he arrived, Towell is behaving extremely well.

Immediately after Clyde Taylor was officially accredited before the Paraguayan Government, he met with the leadership of the National Accord, with opposition political leaders, and with journalists who are usually criticized by the government.

Towell, however, is greeting national officials, he talks about the antidrug struggle, and he has done nothing that reminds us of his predecessor.

Peru

Garcia Leaves for Group of 8 Summit in Uruguay

PY2610141588 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1356 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Lima, 26 Oct (EFE)—Peruvian President Alan Garcia today departed for Montevideo, Uruguay, where he will participate in the second meeting of the Group of Eight, which will begin on 27 October in Punta del Este.

The president departed at 0830 (1330 GMT) from the 8th Air Group military airport located in the Lima port of Callao. He was seen off by the entire cabinet.

Senator Luis Alberto Sanchez, the first vice president, will be acting president during the absence of the Peruvian chief of state.

The president is traveling in the company of Foreign Minister Luis Gonzalez Posada; Victor Tirado, head of the Social Communications System; and Ambassadors Jorge del Campo, Peruvian ambassador to Uruguay, and Jorge Gordillo, director of ceremonies and protocol of the Foreign Ministry.

The Fokker F28 plane which is carrying President Garcia and his entourage will make a technical stopover in Cordoba, Argentina, before arriving in Uruguay.

Shining Path Kills Judge, Wife, 13 Indians

PY2610143788 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0455 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Lima, 25 Oct (TELAM-EFE)—The police today reported in Lima that, in an isolated settlement in the Andean region, alleged members of the Maoist Shining Path group shot and killed a judge, his wife, and 13 Indians, on charges of cooperating with the forces of order.

The police sources explained that early on the morning of 23 October, a group of terrorists armed with machineguns attacked Castilla District in Yauyos Province, 220 km southest of Lima.

The source added that the hooded terrorists captured Judge Chavez; his wife, Saulina Yacta; and 13 peasants; took them to the main square; and, after holding a so-called people's court, sentenced them to death.

According to police witnesses, four guerrillas shot the sentenced group inside the town hall and, before leaving the place, placed posters on the bodies saying: This is how informers die.

Uruguay

Sanguinetti Receives Chilean Opposition Leaders

PY2710013388 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti today received a delegation of 28 Chilean political opposition leaders who tomorrow will attend the opening ceremony of the Group of Eight summit.

The delegation includes Ricardo Lagos, president of the Party for Democracy; Enrique Silva Cimma, president of the Radical Party; Tomas Hirsch, president of the Humanist Party; Gabriel Valdes, leader of the Christian Democratic Party; and political scientist Juan Somavia.

These politicians held a 1-hour meeting with the Uruguayan president. At the end of the meeting, these leaders expressed their appreciation for President Sanguinetti's invitation to participate in the opening session of the summit conference.

Tomorrow these Chilean leaders will leave for Punta del Este. They stressed that the invitation is important because it represents support for the process of the recovery of democracy in Chile. [passage omitted]

De la Madrid Addresses Congress on Foreign Debt

PY2610111088 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Excerpts] The servicing of the foreign debt must be adjusted to the debtor countries' repayment capabilities, Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid said today. This afternoon the Mexican president spoke before Congress, to a full session. He discussed the foreign debt, among other subjects.

Uruguayan Vice President Enrique Tarigo welcomed the Mexican president. [passage omitted]

In turn, President de la Madrid said the following:

[Begin recording] We are facing all kinds of negative factors, such as the threat of protectionism, the decline of prices of leading export items, the increase of interest rates, the lack of financial resources for development, and an unstable exchange rate.

On the international economic scene, a sharp imbalance still persists in international trade to the detriment of the developing countries, despite their efforts to adjust their economies.

Even the most industrialized economies are showing unsettling signals of threatening international development and stability.

In the past few years, the gap between advanced societies and most of the countries in the Southern Hemisphere has widened. It is not acceptable that the worst effects be felt exclusively by the developing countries. Part of the problem is due to an evil phenomenon by which our countries lose their capital through the transference of resources to the creditor countries in the form of debt payments.

This capital flight accelerates the deterioration of the standard of living of our societies, it does not allow us to resume development, and it constitutes an obstacle for regional democratization.

After the debtor countries' great efforts to recover from recession, it is now the industrialized countries' turn to play a key role in the search for a solution to this serious Third World crisis. I especially mean the creditor banks, which must not only reschedule the debt for longer repayment terms, but also reduce its costs significantly. The banks must resume the granting of satisfactory credits.

The debt, financing, and trade must be totally interrelated. The foreign debt problem goes beyond the strictly financial and economic aspect, and without a doubt, it also has a political connotation.

Servicing of the foreign debt must be adjusted to the debtor countries' real repayment capabilities. It is unthinkable to honor our debt if our economic growth is not allowed. Although the debtor countries must make great efforts domestically, the industrialized economies have the responsibility of reactivating the international economy.

We must not consign and condemn our peoples to a life sentence of unilateral adjustment and social well-being.

An adjustment demands symmetry and shared responsibility on the part of the countries where the greatest volume of wealth is concentrated. [end recording]

Minister, Congressmen on Foreign Warship Docking
PY2610234588 Montevideo LA HORA in Spanish
24 Oct 88 p 5

[Text] Defense Minister Hugo Medina yesterday said that U.S. and Brazilian warships can dock in Montevideo, independently of any Chamber of Deputies decision. "The problem lies in the delay in approving the draft bill" submitted for their consideration by the executive branch, the defense minister said.

Broad Front Senator Luis Senatore (PGP) [Party for the Government of the People], member of the Senate Defense Committe, has said that U.S. Navy ships cannot enter Uruguayan territorial waters without the approval of Congress. The senator, who is a member of the list of 99 [not further identified], added that the Constitution specifically established this in Article 85, Section 11.

Of course, if the Chamber of Deputies meets in a special session in the next few days and approves Uruguayan participation in the maneuvers, the ships can enter our ports, Senatore said. The Broad Front has opposed the measure in the Senate and will oppose it again in the Chamber of Deputies, Senatore concluded.

Deputy Ricardo Rocha Imaz (PN-MNR) [National Party—Rocha movement faction] categorically said that the maneuvers and the docking in Uruguayan ports need congressional approval.

"There has not been any authorization for either one. The issue must be discussed in the Chamber of Deputies first. Our movement is going to oppose the measure as we have done in 1985, 1986, 1987, and during the last congressional period. The 10 legislators of the Rocha movement will vote against the measure if it is submitted to a special session of Congress," Rocha Imaz said.

Regarding the docking of warships in the port of Montevideo, Rocha Imaz said our sovereignty is at stake and "the Congress must authorize the docking of foreign ships."